

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please amend the first full paragraph (beginning on line 4) on page 6 as follows:**

In FIG. 2b, the software agents have become aware of the breakdown in the notification channel (e.g. by failure to receive an acknowledgment from said notification channel after sending data). On becoming aware of the interruption, the software agents send alarm messages (messages alr<sub>i</sub>) to the communication server S informing it of the breakdown of the communication means between the two software agents C<sub>1</sub> and C<sub>2</sub>.